

Date: Tue, 5 Oct 93 21:34:43 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #1183
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Tue, 5 Oct 93 Volume 93 : Issue 1183

Today's Topics:

 Message to Kazakstan ??
 A rare opportunity.....
 ARRL Letter 9/27/93
 Docs for AX.25 version 2.1?
 eliminating RFI from PC on hf bands
 High-end paddles (and the Morse Impaired)
 HTs Airlines and Morris
 Readership Report for the Radio-Related Usenet Newsgroups
 Rejuvenate NiCd Battery _Packs_? (Not Cells)
 Selling license info (was: Re: 6 weeks 1 day!)
 W1FB RTTY contest software (2 msgs)

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Tue, 5 Oct 93 09:58:04 EST
From: pa.dec.com!nl.nuwc.navy.mil:greg%willie.nl.nuwc.navy.mil!@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: ***Message to Kazakstan ??***
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

This past summer A friend of mine was a host to a couple of exchange students from the CIS. One of these exchange students came from Kazakstan. He has been trying to contact her by sending mail and attempting phone calls. According to my friend Fran, the mail service is non existent and on the telephone, he has only been able to reach the capital city of Kazakstan, Alma-Ata. I suggested to him that maybe there is a way to send a message via ham radio. I don't know if the US has a third party traffic agreement with Kazakstan or not. If the US

doesn't have a third party agreement, perhaps there are some hams in Western Europe that I could email to whose countries do have third party agreements with Kazakhstan.

The town that this exchange student lives in is Taukent in the Chimkent region of southern Kazakhstan. I can of course provide a complete name, address and telephone number to anyone that could pass the message. So any help that anyone out there can think of would be greatly appreciated. Please reply to me by email at the following address:

greg@wasik.nl.nuwc.navy.mil

...greg KD1PL

Date: Mon, 04 Oct 93 15:07:49 EDT
From: das.wang.com!wang!tossport!lee@uunet.uu.net
Subject: A rare opportunity.....
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

....will come your way on Sunday the 17th of October -

After I get back from the Deerfield/Rochester hamfest on the 16th, I shall have all the elements for my nice new HF station. On the 17th I'm going to be testing it all out for the first time, ever. This'll be my first time out with my shiny new U.S. call.

...so, if you hear N1QGB/AA on the bands (probably RTTY or PACTOR) drop by and say "Hi!".

...then I gotta fire up my old Robot gear.....

Lee

G8LCK/N1QGB

Date: 6 Oct 93 02:08:45 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!cs.utexas.edu!convex!news.utdallas.edu!feenix.metronet.com!marcbg@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: ARRL Letter 9/27/93
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 12, No. 18
September 27, 1993

FCC lauds amateurs for interference resolution;
L.A. office finds drop in TVI/RFI complaints

Interference complaints are down significantly in Southern California, according to the FCC's Los Angeles office of the Field Operations Bureau, and amateur volunteers are cited as the prevailing reason for the decline.

The FCC said that it has "noted a significant decrease in the number of complaints involving amateur radio operators causing interference to consumer electronic equipment." A July survey of interference case data conducted by the Commission's Los Angeles office showed a 42% decrease in amateur-TV/phone interference complaints, the FCC said.

The survey compared complaints from January 1989 to June 1993.

"This significant decrease," the FCC said, "is primarily due to the exemplary work of the local volunteer amateur auxiliaries (of the ARRL, see Editor's note) which intervene when TVI or telephone interference occurs. The auxiliary members volunteer their time and expertise to inspect amateur radio installations and offer technical advice as well as helping troubleshoot the problem with method(s) of shielding, filtering, grounding, etc.

"The effort of the auxiliary is significant," the FCC said, "because of the recent change in FCC policy where field offices no longer routinely investigate individual TVI or telephone interference complaints on a one-to-one basis. The auxiliary is commended for continuing to work on these complaints even though the FCC no longer requires them to work on these interference cases."

The Commission, reacting to budget constraints, now provides self-help information for individuals to use in resolving interference, and works with consumer groups in solving problems on a larger scale.

"The Commission is redirecting its resources to attack interference problems at their roots. The continuing work of the auxiliary has resulted in fewer complaints reported to the FCC.

"This voluntary work of the auxiliary," the FCC said, "should be applauded by amateur operators everywhere. They continue to make the Amateur Radio Service more self sufficient and promote goodwill between amateurs and all parties involved.

"It should also be noted," the FCC said, "that the auxiliary continues to accept complaints of amateur-to-amateur interference cases. The Los Angeles FCC Field Office is fortunate to have some of the finest auxiliary volunteers

in their area and amateur operators are encouraged to take advantage of their expertise," the FCC said.

(Editor's note: The FCC in this case has used the term "amateur auxiliary" in a somewhat generic form. The ARRL Amateur Auxiliary exists primarily to assist the FCC in enforcement actions. But FCC Field Offices are often most familiar with local ARRL Amateur Auxiliary members and call on them for assistance in resolving interference cases; Amateur Auxiliary members are, according to ARRL Field Services Manager Rick Palm, K1CE, generally ready and willing to assist in such matters even though they do not fall directly within their responsibilities.

Other ARRL volunteers who often assist in interference resolution include Technical Advisors and TVI/RFI committees of ARRL-affiliated clubs.

A detailed description of the ARRL Amateur Auxiliary is in *QST* for December, 1992, page 55).

Town honors Headquarters on A.R. Awareness Day

ARRL Headquarters is well known in the town of Newington, the office building having been a prominent fixture at 225 Main Street since 1965; the 120-ft tower erected in the spring of 1978 doesn't hurt, either!

This year in conjunction with Amateur Radio Awareness Day on Sept. 18 the town recognized Amateur Radio with the following proclamation:

"WHEREAS the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the backbone of Amateur Radio in the United States, has declared September 18, 1993 as "Amateur Radio Awareness Day"; and

"WHEREAS, the Town of Newington is the national headquarters location of said ARRL; and

"WHEREAS, 'ham radio operators' are often the first to get word out of an area hit by a hurricane, earthquake, or other major disaster; and

"WHEREAS, amateur radio organizations, in cooperation with those in public service, also provide much needed communications and assistance for local events such as Newington's Memorial Day Parade and provide additional 'eyes and ears' for the Newington Police Department on Halloween Eve, as well as conduct free classes by volunteer instructors to teach the public how to become a licensed amateur operator; and

"WHEREAS, there exists in Newington a local club entitled 'Newington Amateur Radio League (NARL)' which provides the above and other services; and

"WHEREAS, amateur radio operators licensed by the Federal Communications Commission are forbidden by federal law to charge for services, and organizations that require their services may call on them for assistance within the

limits of NARL's available man and woman power;

"Now, Therefore, I, Rodney B. Mortensen, Mayor of the Town of Newington, do hereby proclaim Saturday, September 18, 1993, as AMATEUR RADIO AWARENESS DAY in the Town of Newington."

FCC FINES RETAILER FOR OFFERING MODIFICATION

The FCC has ordered Amateur Radio Supply of Seattle to pay a fine of \$5,600 for selling an Amateur Radio transceiver and offering to modify it to be able to transmit and receive in the Private Land Mobile and Marine Radio Services.

According to the FCC, the sale took place in December, 1991, and in July of 1992 the Commission's Seattle office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability, followed by a response from Amateur Radio Supply. The FCC said it reviewed the response and then issued a Notice of Forfeiture for \$5,600.

The Commission said that reasons given for the store's actions -- training of a new salesperson and many years in the business of serving the Amateur Radio community -- were not persuasive, although the FCC considered the store's "clean record" in mitigating the amount of the fine.

PROPOSED TOWER STIRS CONCERN IN ARIZONA TOWN

A commercial FM station in Arizona is trying to get around strict "beautification" rules by proposing to disguise a new transmitting tower as a saguaro cactus.

KXLL told officials of Paradise Valley, a bedroom community north of Phoenix that does not allow commercial operations of any kind (not even a gasoline station) that it would like to build the tower at the crest of Mummy Mountain, in the center of the town; the ersatz saguaro (which is the symbol of Arizona) would house both the tower and transmitting antenna itself.

Because the transmitter site has no real saguaros nearby, KXLL co-owner Katherine S. Klein told the Tempe-Mesa *News Tribune*, "the station would place up to three real cactuses around their artificial cousin.

"You wouldn't be able to tell them apart," Klein told the newspaper.

According to Harry Hyder, W7IV, of nearby Tempe, Paradise Valley's most distinguished citizen is former U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, who has a tall "Christmas tree" of Yagi antennas.

"Perhaps he was 'grandfathered,'" Hyder said.

AEA NAMES CALIF. WOMAN 1993 AMBASSADOR WINNER

Advanced Electronics Applications has named Catherine Gunderson, N600S, its 1993 Amateur Ambassador Award winner. Gunderson, 41, of Santa Cruz, California, is director of the Redwood Youth Foundation, a non-profit youth education program.

In September 1992 Gunderson organized a contact with shuttle astronaut Jay Apt, N5QWL, during a SAREX flight. Students at Del Mar Middle School managed a six-minute contact with the crew. According to AEA, the feat was accomplished with "only a small radio and a home-made antenna they adjusted every 20 seconds."

Gunderson's name will be engraved on the Amateur Ambassador Award trophy which permanently resides at ARRL Headquarters. {photo requested but not here yet}.

POLICE FEAR FOUL PLAY IN YOUNG HAM'S DISAPPEARANCE

A 13-year-old Gardner, Massachusetts amateur has been missing since August 27 and police suspect foul play.

Nathan A. Taylor, WZ1W, is believed to have traveled to the Houston area, possibly with an adult, according to Gardner police. He was described by his parents as very bright but hyperactive and moody. Although an Extra Class ham, his most recent interest has been in computers.

Both the Houston Police Department and the FBI have become involved in the case, which is being treated as more serious than just a "runaway," according to Gardner police.

Nathan Taylor is 5 ft, 5 in tall and weighs about 105 pounds, with blue eyes, light brown/blonde hair, and wears eyeglasses.

Anyone with information on Nathan is asked to call Detective Bill Grasmuck of the City of Gardner (Mass.) Police Department, at 508-632-5600.

Nathan was still missing as of September 23, 1993.

CANADIANS CALLED TO ARMS OVER PROPOSED NEW LAWS

The Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has issued an "urgent notice" for its members to react to a proposed government rules change that could adversely affect amateurs.

In a September 13, 1993, news bulletin from RAC headquarters in Kingston, Ontario, Canadian amateurs were told that

"Industry, Science and Technology Canada, the government department replacing Communications Canada," RAC said, "has just released TRC-86, a draft document entitled 'Criteria for Resolution of Immunity Complaints Involving Fundamental Emissions of Radiocommunications Transmitters.'"

"This document suggests and proposes," RAC said, "to

make ministerial determinations, as provided by law in the Radio Communications Act, by a measurement of the following values of field strength, quote 'measured in accordance with accepted engineering practice, at the site of the equipment being affected by harmful interference:

"'a) for broadcast receivers and associated equipment I. 1.83 volts per meter, equivalent to a 125 dB above a microvolt per meter;

"'b) for all radio sensitive equipment I. 3.16 volts per meter, equivalent to 130 dB above one microvolt per meter.'

"Radio amateurs should not accept this one-sided technical solution," RAC told its members, "which further obligates the transmitter owner and inequitably places no mandatory requirement whatsoever on the manufacturers of such radio equipmentI.

"There is further ambiguity in the definitions of the two classes of equipment mentioned above, that VCRs and compact disc accessories may qualify to be deemed broadcast receivers if they are attached to equipment capable of receiving broadcast signals.

"Over 80% of these cases involving Amateur use of the spectrum 1.8 to 30 MHz have been resolved by reducing the conducted interference on any cable entering the affected equipment. External shielding is not remedial nor necessary in these circumstances. A radiated measurement does not account for random localized re-radiation, household wiring resonance effects or place any obligation on the manufacturers of the devices to meet any requirement for radiosensitivity.

"The EMC Committee of RAC will respond to the proposals of this document I. this is an URGENT MATTER as the paper will be published in the Canada Gazette in early 1994 and can become law."

220 MHz band in jeopardy

In other news from Canada, according to the RAC, Industry and Science Canada (formerly the Department of Communications) has invited public discussion on a newly released paper on spectrum allocation and use in the range 30-960 MHz. The amateur primary allocation at 220-222 MHz (which U.S. amateurs already have lost to commercial interests) is under review.

"Canada's amateurs must get behind RAD in an all out effort to retain this important VHF segment," RAC said, citing growth in amateur licensees of more than 55 per cent, to 40,000, since 1990.

BRIEFS

* The launch of SAREX flight STS-58 has been pushed back again, to October 14 at 1453 UTC for a 13 day mission. On board are William S. McArthur Jr., KC5ACR, and Martin J. Fettman, KC5AXA. Flight information updates will be available on W1AW as the launch date nears.

SAREX flight STS-60 is tentatively scheduled for November 10, 1993, but likely will be delayed into 1994.

* The Columbia Institute for Tele-Information will hold its Second Annual Training Workshop for Telecommunications Regulators November 15-19, 1993, in New York City. Among events scheduled is a welcoming overview as well as the closing address by Eli Noam, KE2PN, a Columbia professor of telecommunications. More information is available from the Institute at 212-854-4222 (fax 212-932 7816).

* Amateur licensing processing times at the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania facility have been running at near their desired maximum of 90 days; both a continued large amount of applications and inadequate staffing are cited.

Recent examinees can expect to wait 12-14 weeks for their license to arrive from the FCC.

* Peter Chadwick, G3RZP, president of the Radio Society of Great Britain, represented the Society in July at a garden party at Buckingham Palace. HRH Prince Phillip is a Patron of the RSGB.

And the RSGB recently reported that their new Direct Debit Payment Service, allowing members to spread their annual dues payment over several months, has "proved to be extremely popular with existing members I and has attracted many new members following the advertising campaign: 'It's Never Been Easier to Join.'"

* The newest DXCC country may be Eritrea, which has been recommended by the ARRL DX Advisory Committee but still faces approval by the League's Awards Committee.

Eritrea was a DXCC country after World War 2; it was conquered by British Forces in 1941, became federated with Ethiopia in 1952, and was made a province of Ethiopia in 1962. At that time it was deleted from the DXCC list.

The DXAC was convinced that Eritrea now has emerged as an independent country but was split on a recommended effective date for valid contacts with the new country.

DO NOT send QSL cards to the DXCC Desk until the announcement that Eritrea has officially been added to the DXCC list and a date for acceptance of cards has been set.

* As of September 13, 82 members of the U.S. House of Representatives had become co-sponsors of The Amateur Radio Service Joint Resolution (H.J. Res. 199); 12 senators were co-sponsors of the Senate version, S.J. 90. A full list

of co-sponsors of the resolutions is scheduled for November
QST.

* The newest call sign among the Headquarters staff
is N1QDQ, sported by Educational Correspondent Tracy
Bedlack, a veteran of the Educational Activities Department.

* The Montserrat Amateur Radio Society will operate
station VP2M from its new clubhouse November 14,
commemorating both the 15th anniversary of the Society and
the 500th anniversary of the naming of the Island by
Christopher Columbus during his second voyage to the West
Indies in 1493.

A story about Montserrat by Stu Stevens, K8SJ,
appears in October *QST*.

* The 1993 Boy Scouts of America Jamboree-on-the-Air
will be held October 16 and 17, the 36th running of this
event. W1AW will carry more information as the date nears.

Contact the ARRL Educational Activities Department
of see September *QST*, page 45, for information on how you
can get involved.

--

/ Marc Grant N5MEI / marchbg@metronet.com / Live from Texas. Home of
/ POB 850472 / marchbg@esy.com / da Barbecue, da Beer, and
/ Richardson, TX 75085 / 214-231-3998 (voice) / da Boys. Dat's dat.
/ / 214-231-0025 (fax) /

Date: 4 Oct 93 21:25:36 GMT
From: ogicse!emory!dragon!nj8j!ben@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Docs for AX.25 version 2.1?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

mbsun.mlb.org!yyz!115-119!Jim.Van.Peursem (Jim Van Peursem) writes:

> In <50@coutts.UUCP> ww@coutts.UUCP (Warren W. Gay VE3WWG) writes:
>
> >I am wondering if there is a better source, or a complimentary source
> >of information regarding AX.25 protocol. The ARRL "booklet" is ok
> >for describing the basic ingredients, but it is sadly lacking the
> >details necessary for someone to actually implement AX.25.
>
> The 7th ARRL Computer Networking Conference proceedings has SDL
> for ax.25. It's got a couple of bugs in it as I recall, but it's
> a great place to start.

Which reminds me - where can one find doc on version 2.1 of AX.25? I
know it has been implemented at least in NOS, but I haven't seen docs on

it yet.

Followups to rec.radio.amateur.digital.misc

Ben

```
+-----+
| Ben Coleman NJ8J          | "All that is not eternal is   |
| AX.25:  NJ8J@W4QO.#EAL.#ATL.GA.USA.NA | eternally out of date." |
| Internet: ben@nj8j.atl.ga.us          | C. S. Lewis |
+-----+
```

Date: 5 Oct 1993 14:19:35 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!usc!sdd.hp.com!col.hp.com!
srngenprp!news.dtc.hp.com!hpscit.sc.hp.com!hpubmaa.esr.hp.com!
garhow@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: eliminating RFI from PC on hf bands
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <28ev2g\$hj2@master.cs.rose-hulman.edu>, derry@NeXtwork.Rose-Hulman.Edu
writes:

```
|> My friend got rid of most of his rfi by unplugging the printer cable.My
|> friend got rid of most of his rfi by unplugging the printer cable.My
|> friend got rid of most of his rfi by unplugging the printer cable.My
|> friend got rid of most of his rfi by unplugging the printer cable.My
|> friend got rid of most of his rfi by unplugging the printer cable.My
|> friend got rid of most of his rfi by unplugging the printer cable.
|>
|> 73 de Jack, K9CUN
```

Maybe I should try unplugging the printer cable =8^)

--

Garry Howard	Hewlett-Packard Company
Technical Consultant	29 Burlington Mall Road
Professional Services Organization	Burlington, MA 01803 USA
garhow@hpubmaa.esr.hp.com	

[I do not speak for HP officially or otherwise.]

Date: Mon, 04 Oct 93 14:58:17 EDT
From: das.wang.com!wang!tossport!lee@uunet.uu.net
Subject: High-end paddles (and the Morse Impaired)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

> Well you could try to spell Morse right as Morris is a cat.
> Jeff Jones AB6MB | OPPOSE THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT!

Uh, isn't Morse an actor...? Also Morris??? You mean Morse and Morris are one and the same?

(Hi again, Julian!)

Lee

Date: 6 Oct 93 01:16:51 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!cs.utexas.edu!swrinde!ringer!lonestar.utsa.edu!
dlaro@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: HTs Airlines and Morris
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Oct4.142552.23058@cyphyn.radnet.com> randy@cyphyn.radnet.com
(Randy) writes:

>Jeff Herman (jherman@uhunix3.uhcc.Hawaii.Edu) wrote:

>: In article <748711640snx@skyld.tele.com> jangus@skyld.tele.com (Jeffrey D.
Angus) writes:

>: >

>: >In article <27o3fjINNro8@topaz.bds.com> ron@topaz.bds.com writes:

>: >

>: > [apparently quoting jangus@skyld.tele.com]

>: > >

>: > > The Captain did come on the intercom and announce that "transmitting
>: > > devices" were not allowed to be energized while the plane was in the
>: > > air due to FAA regulations. (They did not cite which regulations in
>: > >

>: > > Section 91.21. Why do you insist on causing trouble?

>: >

>:

>: Did you really mean to call the pilot of that aircraft a 'petty bureaucrat'?

>:

>: Someone correct me if I'm wrong (what a silly thing to say on this net...)

>: but I believe a pilot may implement, within reason, any policy which he/she
>: feels is necessary for the safety of the aircraft, regardless of the standing
>: policies imposed by the company. If that pilot believes that transmitting
>: devices might, no matter how small the chance, interfere with navigation,
>: then I am very glad that he would say something.

>:

>: Jeff NH6IL (ex: WA6QIJ et al)

>You are not wrong...and it's more than that, too.

>
>Using a transmitter....even many receivers (the local oscillator, is why)
>inside an aeroplane, you are right next to the antenna system...the body of
> the craft is part of the system.
>
>Someone sending, or even receiving, will screw up the navigation gear,
>(which relies heavily on radio), plus the collision avoidance systems.

Maybe this would be completely accurate if you'd change "will screw up"
to "may...." (well, HE said to correct him if he was wrong and then you
come along andyou know)

Now that we're informed, we (royal 'we') believe that the pilot was
actually a benefactor of all the people on that flight. further, to
get irritated at the pilot for saying that is closely akin to the passenger
who gets irate when his pilot delays takeoff to repair an intermittent
engine problem on a Boeing 707. I *like* petty pilots like that.

David kb5nz

Date: 6 Oct 93 00:05:34 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!vixen.cso.uiuc.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!
sol.ctr.columbia.edu!news.unomaha.edu!news@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Readership Report for the Radio-Related Usenet Newsgroups
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

The following is reprinted from news.lists, with only the radio-related
newsgroups (and the first newsgroup for comparison) included.

>From: reid@decwrl.DEC.COM (Brian Reid)
>Newsgroups: news.lists
>Subject: USENET Readership report for Sep 93
>Date: 3 Oct 1993 22:58:12 GMT
>Organization: DEC Network Systems Laboratory
>Summary: data for all groups
>Keywords: arbitron, statistics, full

This is the full set of data from the USENET readership report for Sep 93.
Explanations of the figures are in a companion posting.

+--	Estimated total number of people who read the group, worldwide.
	+-- Actual number of readers in sampled population
	+-- Propagation: how many sites receive this group at all
	+-- Recent traffic (messages per month)
	+-- Recent traffic (kilobytes per month)
	+-- Crossposting percentage

							+-	Cost ratio: \$US/month/rdr
								+- Share: % of newsrdrs
								who read this group.
	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	
1	360000	5295	91%	2	24.3	100%	0.00	11.3% news.announce.newusers
315	57000	847	77%	1526	3937.9	9%	0.09	1.8% rec.radio.amateur.misc
319	57000	843	77%	748	1682.2	4%	0.04	1.8% rec.radio.shortwave
460	48000	717	74%	381	440.4	6%	0.01	1.5% rec.radio.swap
666	39000	577	70%	161	241.5	6%	0.01	1.2% rec.radio.amateur.packet
744	36000	537	59%	356	583.8	16%	0.02	1.1% alt.radio.scanner
771	36000	529	74%	369	721.2	7%	0.02	1.1% rec.radio.amateur.policy
875	33000	484	75%	94	176.7	36%	0.01	1.0% rec.radio.noncomm
948	31000	458	63%	183	1190.5	3%	0.04	1.0% rec.radio.info
988	30000	441	73%	101	229.6	7%	0.01	0.9% rec.radio.cb
1048	28000	417	54%	222	435.4	15%	0.01	0.9% rec.radio.amateur.homebrew
1052	28000	416	53%	192	276.1	8%	0.01	0.9% rec.radio.amateur.equipment
1086	27000	406	54%	248	458.7	4%	0.01	0.9% rec.radio.amateur.digital.misc
1100	27000	402	53%	268	460.2	2%	0.01	0.9% rec.radio.amateur.antenna
1127	27000	394	53%	91	403.1	36%	0.01	0.8% rec.radio.amateur.space
1213	25000	366	39%	728	1321.9	11%	0.03	0.8% rec.radio.scanner
1215	25000	365	53%	295	3242.6	2%	0.11	0.8% alt.radio.pirate
1282	23000	344	65%	244	500.6	2%	0.02	0.7% rec.radio.broadcasting
2036	12000	184	33%	7	13.1	43%	0.00	0.4% rec.ham-radio.swap
2081	11000	168	34%	10	11.9	0%	0.00	0.4% rec.ham-radio
2341	5700	85	15%	32	40.4	0%	0.00	0.2% alt.radio.networks.npr
2430	3800	57	17%	51	117.5	58%	0.01	0.1% aus.radio

Several positive trends continue this month. Readership is up dramatically in all newsgroups (which is why they call this time of the year the "September Surge"). The two top newsgroups, rec.radio.amateur.misc and rec.radio.shortwave, are roughly tied, as as they were last month. The newly-created rec.radio.amateur.* and rec.radio.scanner newsgroups are continuing to grow in readership and propagation. It is expected that they will continue along the same growth patterns that previously-created newsgroups like rec.radio.info have followed and settle out at about 60-70% propagation. If these new newsgroups still haven't reached your site, please ask your news administrator to create them (refer him/her to the new newsgroup announcements by Dave Lawrence in news.announce.newgroups or the messages posted to the new newsgroups piling up in "junk" :-). Especially point out to him/her that cost/per-reader/per-month is significantly down in all newsgroups.

Readership rankings among the new rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups have been in flux. Currently rec.radio.amateur.homebrew has the highest readership, although all are within roughly the same order of magnitude.

The defunct newsgroup rec.radio.amateur.packet has been rmgrouped as of September 21st, 1993, and is no longer connected to the PACKET-RADIO mailing list. Netters interested in packet-radio discussion should use rec.radio.amateur.digital.misc and the HAM-DIGITAL mailing list. Propagation has started to gradually drop in the old newsgroup, down 5 points from last month. There is a Usenet Request for Discussion (RFD) tentatively scheduled for January 1994, to either reconsider the rec.radio.amateur.digital.tcp-ip vote, merge all digital interests into rec.radio.amateur.digital, or possibly even revert back to rec.radio.amateur.packet. Watch news.announce.newsgroups (or subscribe to the rec.radio.amateur Working Group mailing list at rra-wg-request@amdahl.com) for further developments.

Note also that the defunct rec.ham-radio hierarchy reappears this month. If the newsgroups are still active at your site, please try to persuade your news administrators to delete them as these groups have been rendered obsolete (for almost 3 years now) by the rec.radio.amateur hierarchy.

73, Paul W. Schleck, KD3FU

pschleck@unomaha.edu

Date: 6 Oct 93 02:15:11 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!cs.utexas.edu!gerald@cc.utexas.edu!slip-1-46.ots.utexas.edu!user@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Rejuvenate NiCd Battery _Packs_? (Not Cells)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Is there any way to rejuvenate dead NiCad battery packs, without taking them apart to get to the individual cells? My camcorder seems to kill battery packs pretty rapidly (they have little capacity after a few months of use). The system is so automated, you cannot easily overcharge (charger shuts off) or completely discharge (camera shuts off) the battery.

Sometimes folks hook up a big electrolytic capacitor to a NiCad cell to blow out the dendrites. Any opinions on whether that would work on a non-disassemble-able 6V battery pack?

(I hope this does not turn into a big discussion of whether or not the memory effect exists.)

= = = = =
_ Miles Abernathy, N5K0B =
| |__ miles@mbs.telesys.utexas.edu =
_| | POB 7580, Austin TX 78713 =
\ * / University of Texas @ Austin =

\\ tel. (512) 471-6521 =
= = = = = = = = = = = = = = = =

Date: 6 Oct 93 04:58:01 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!vixen.cso.uiuc.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!
sol.ctr.columbia.edu!news.cs.columbia.edu!popovich@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Selling license info (was: Re: 6 weeks 1 day!)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <CEG3tn.Mx0@world.std.com>
dts@world.std.com (Daniel T Senie) writes:

> Ummm folks, ANYONE can buy a tape from the US Government with the callsign data.
> The data is in the public domain. The ARRL may let you be removed from the
> lists and labels they make available, but I don't know of any way to get
> off the list available from the US Government.

Well, you could send your license back, or let it expire, but I don't
know of any other way to get off that list. With any sort of license
comes a certain loss of privacy.

-Steve

Date: Mon, 04 Oct 93 15:16:47 EDT
From: das.wang.com!wang!tosspot!lee@uunet.uu.net
Subject: W1FB RTTY contest software
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Anyone ever use it and have any comments on it??

Lee

Date: 5 Oct 1993 18:56:34 GMT
From: mvb.saic.com!unogate!news.service.uci.edu!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!
europa.eng.gtefsd.com!news.ans.net!malgudi.oar.net!news.ysu.edu!yfn.ysu.edu!
ag821@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: W1FB RTTY contest software
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In a previous article, lee@tosspot.sv.com (Lee Reynolds) says:

>Anyone ever use it and have any comments on it??

>

> Lee
>

Isn't there another letter in the call?

I finally splurged and bought a copy. I used it in the last contest. I look at and review software as part of my job. For what it does, don't know how it could be much better. You need a mouse to take advantage of it. I use it on an old XT and it ran great. Boy did it make the contest more fun. You just use the mouse to click on the call sign or other info and it automatically does what it needs to. Has all the other contest features similiar to CT. and of course it does all the post-contest paper work effortlessly.

73

Jeff, AC4HF

--

Jeff M. Gold, AC4HF
Manager, Academic Computing Support
Tennessee Technological University

Date: 6 Oct 93 00:05:15 GMT
From: ogicse!emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary@network.ucsd.edu
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <28f93b\$b0f@cville-srv.wam.umd.edu>, <wFTuac1w165w@nj8j.atl.ga.us>, <EMERY.930ct4174807@bert.cs.byu.edu>
Reply-To : gary@ke4zv.UUCP (Gary Coffman)
Subject : Re: Motorola ad in QST?

In article <EMERY.930ct4174807@bert.cs.byu.edu> emery@bert.cs.byu.edu (Emery Weber) writes:

>On Sun, 03 Oct 93 18:07:55 -0400, ben@nj8j.atl.ga.us (Ben Coleman) said:

>

>> ham@wam.umd.edu (Scott Richard Rosenfeld) writes:

>

>>> It seems that QST is an interesting place to run this ad, at the very
>>> least. Maybe they think that hams are involved with piracy -

>

>> Well, if it's software piracy they're worried about, that might not be
>> too far off the mark. My experience has been that many hams think
>> nothing about pirating software willy-nilly.

>

>Yes, but if I buy it I don't think it is piracy to modify it and if I can
>find "hidden" features, what is wrong with enabling them. It would
>be piracy if I made a copy of their software and then sold the copy.

This is a complex issue. On the one hand, Motorola and others have had a problem with people hacking their control ROMs to allow theft of services. This includes changing the serial number of a cellphone or tricking the ROM in a TV descrambler. On the other hand, they've been lazy by using the same ROM in many different radio models and selecting different feature sets by jumpers or secret control sequences. They consider those different features extra cost "options" that you're "stealing", so they consider user manipulation of their ROMs piracy.

Is that a legitimate concern or not? I suspect that most people feel that a purchase that gives them physical possession of an item allows them to use any and all features the item may contain. "Like a book", it's theirs to scribble in, go over with yellow markers, rip out pages and assemble in a more useful order, resell, etc. This is going to be an increasing dilemma for manufacturers and users as more hardware features are really implemented as changed firmware behavior. "Pirating" and hacking firmware is becoming a cottage industry.

Hams and radio firmware is becoming a particular issue since hams traditionally have taken used commercial radios and shifted them to amateur service. With many of today's radios, that's not just a matter of changing crystals and retuning. Today, it often involves hacking a ROM. Is that legitimate modification, or is it piracy of intellectual property? Motorola seems to be saying it's the latter.

This may be one of the first salvos in a legal process that started with the FCC mandating radios that users are not able to take "out of band". It started with HF linears and CB, went from there to commercial band radios that can't be user programmed, and now to scanners that can't be modified to receive cellular service. Of course we know that anything can be modified, so now the government and the companies are looking to lawyers to protect what they can't protect by design. With many radio features now firmware, this issue isn't going to go away.

Gary

--

Gary Coffman KE4ZV	"If 10% is good enough	gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems	for Jesus, it's good	uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way	enough for Uncle Sam."	emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244	-Ray Stevens	

Date: 6 Oct 93 01:25:15 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!cs.utexas.edu!swrinde!ringer!lonestar.utsa.edu!
dlaro@network.ucsd.edu
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <93274.095702SCUNNANE@ESTEC.BITNET>,
<1993Oct1.124355.13350@mulvey.com>, <28p891\$mkb@gopher.cs.uofs.edu>
Subject : Re: walkman - radio transmitter

In article <28p891\$mkb@gopher.cs.uofs.edu> bill@triangle.cs.uofs.edu (Bill
Gunshannon) writes:

>In article <1993Oct1.124355.13350@mulvey.com>, rich@mulvey.com writes:

>|> SCUNNANE@ESTEC.BITNET wrote:

>|> : Can anyone tell me if such a thing exists to allow me to play my walkman

>|> : on the car radio ? What I'm looking for is something to plug into the

>|> : headphones socket of the walkman that transmits a radio signal that can

>|> : be picked up by the car radio ?

>|>

>|>

>|> Well, if all you're interested in is using the car stereo as an

>|> amp/speaker system, then just go to radio shack and get their

>|> "CD/Cassette? adapter. (This assumes that you have a cassette deck,

>|> of course.) You plug one end into the headphone jack of your walkman,

>|> and the other end looks like a cassette. Pop that into your deck, and

>|> voila!

>|>

>

>If he already had a cassette deck in his car radio, why would he need a walkman??

>

>bill

Well, how about: his cassette deck eats tapes, his walkman does not? (you've
got to be more *creative* about this stuff.)

Also, he really has a police (or cell phone) monitor and wants to put in his
glove compartment and drive around looking quite innocent...and *you* thought
he was just an innocent who didn't know his apple from his orange!.

David
kb5nz

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #1183
